Mr. Sesha Ayyar. But we did not want to disturb the arrangements in the office, and Mr. Sesha Ayyar was readily available there to carry on the work. The man who comes from outside, even though he may be a qualified man, will take some time to know the state of things in the office, and by the time he understands the work, he will have to be sent away.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—And the leave itself was very short.

President.—These are matters in which the Government is expected to act with some discretion, and Government has exercised its discretion in a proper way.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't think so, Sir.

President.—You may not agree. That is another matter.

Auction of tobacco shops.

88. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Diwan or the Government has received a printed petition from the people of Vellarappalli about the sale of tobacco and the auction of tobacco shops in that village; and if so,

(b) whether the Government will print as appendix and place on the table paragraphs 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 of the petition referred to;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made with reference to the allegation contained therein; and if so, who made the enquiry, and when and what is its result;

(d) whether any reply has been given to the petitioners;

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to redress their grievances;

(f) whether the official papers with reference to this petition will be placed on the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) The petition itself is placed on the Secretary's table.

(c) An enquiry was made by the Kanayannur Inspector between 9th Makaram 1102 to 20th Edavam 1102, and the result was that the imputations made in the petition were found to be not well founded.

(d) The petitioners were informed that there are no sufficient grounds to interfere in the matter.

(e) No answer is necessary in view of the reply to part (d).

(f) The Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government perused the allegations contained in the petition?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The allegations are absolutely unfounded.

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President.—The question is "whether the allegations have been perused by the Government." The proper answer will be "Yes" or "No." Whether the allegations are founded or unfounded will arise only subsequently.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With regard to the concluding portion of the petition, may I know whether any enquiry has been made by the Diwan in the matter, as requested by the petitioners ?

President.—Is it by the Diwan ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The petition is addressed to the Diwan.

President.—Petitions relating to departments are received by the Diwan, and he sends them to the Heads of Departments concerned for remarks. According to the allegations contained in the petition, the proper disposal was to send it to the Excise Superintendent for remarks. He forwarded his remarks, and on perusing them the Diwan thought it unnecessary to take further action.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is specially stated in the petition that their grievances had not been redressed by the Excise Superintendent, that he is not competent to conduct the enquiry, and that the Diwan himself must do it.

President.—But I must be satisfied that the Excise Superintendent is not, as stated in the petition, competent to conduct the enquiry.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—That he is not is stated in the petition.

President.—I take a different view ; I think the Excise Superintendent is competent to do it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know, Sir, whether the concluding part of the petition has been answered, whether any reply has been sent to the petitioners ?

President.—Nothing these require answer.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there any agreement about the quantity of tobacco to be sold there?

President.—Agreement with whom ? For the purpose of an agreement there must be some other party.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Government can know whether it has entered into any agreement with anybody.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We have fixed the quantity to be imported to Vellarappalli. The quantity was fixed on account of some correspondence between the Travancore and Cochin Governments.

President.—Therefore, we have come to an understanding with the Travancore Government, that a certain quantity of

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tobacco would be imported into Vellarappalli and not more than that ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know what is that quantity?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If you refer to the sale notification of the shops for this year, you can find it.

President.—Are you in a position to give the figures now ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The approximate figure will do. What is the amount for which the shops are auctioned ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I don't remember.

President.—Information is not readily available.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Papers should be ready, so that when questions are put, they can be answered. Now, I have to put another question.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I could have very easily given the figures.

President.—We must make a distinction between supplementary questions and fresh questions. For the purpose of answering these fresh questions we are given notice. The supplementary questions are put to elucidate facts given in the answer. What is the fact given in the answer that requires explanation ?

All these questions will appear to have reference to new questions of facts, and for that reference to papers will be necessary.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I say that it is not a supplementary question, and I am not bound to answer.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is a supplementary question ; I can prove it.

President.—To give the quantity of tobacco we have to examine records. We could not know that a supplementary question would be asked on this.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The Hon'ble Member said he could very easily give the figures. If he has got them, I shall be very much obliged, if he gives them.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—But I have not got the papers.

Judicial Powers to Panchayats.

89. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table:—

(a) a list of the Panchayats on which judicial powers were conferred during the regime of the present Superintendent of Panchayats ;

(b) the number of Panchayats which have judicial powers and the number which have not ;

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